

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

(SIXTH BIENNIAL)

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE KENTUCKY INSTITUTION

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND,

(AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY,)

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF KENTUCKY,

FOR THE YEARS 1862 AND 1863.

FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY.

PRINTED AT THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

WM. E. HUGHES, STATE PRINTER.

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SIXTEENTH REPORT.

To the General Assembly of Kentucky:

The Trustees of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind respectfully present their sixteenth report, embracing a period of two years, commencing December 16, 1861.

The lives of all the pupils have been preserved during the last two years, and the few cases of illness which have occurred among them, have readily yielded to the means employed by the officers of the institution.

The institution has been in existence nearly twenty-two years, with an average attendance of forty pupils, very few of whom enjoyed vigorous health at the time of their admission into the school; and yet we have the satisfaction of reporting that only three of the pupils have been removed by death from the institution since it was founded in the year 1842.

The remarkable preservation of the lives and health of the pupils demands renewed expression of gratitude to Divine Providence, which has watched over the institution for so many years, and granted to its pupils the singular exemption from disease and death which the trustees have been permitted to report from year to year.

No efforts are wanting to improve the health of the pupils in this school. All the sanitary regulations of the institution are judicious. The site of the building is one of the most healthful, and the edifice itself one of the most commodious in the State of Kentucky. The dormitories and other rooms are spacious, well ventilated, and neat; the beds are cleanly and comfortable; the diet is plain, plentiful, varied, and nutritious. Daily exercise in the open air, and frequent bathing, are required of the pupils. A variety of agreeable employment, for mind and body, is provided for all; and, in cases of sickness, the attention of kind and faithful nurses, and of the most skillful physicians, is promptly secured, and the pupils are constantly surrounded with all the conveniences, comforts, and sympathies of a well-regulated family.

While the efforts of the officers of this institution have been so singularly successful in protecting the pupils from disease and death, we regret to report that a vastly greater proportion of the self-denying officers, too unmindful of themselves in their earnest and generous devotion to their pupils, have fallen at their posts while actively engaged in their arduous work. We have, in former years, reported to the General Assembly the death of a matron, a teacher, a trustee, and the wife of the superintendent; and it is now our painful duty to report the death of another teacher, a graduate of this institution, who, as a pupil and a teacher, was for many years one of the brightest orna-

ments of the school and of the afflicted and interesting class to which she belonged. Miss Ellen Emmons, a teacher of music in this institution, departed this life on the 15th day of February, 1862. An obituary notice, which appeared editorially in the Louisville Journal a few days after her death, and a biographical sketch, written by the Superintendent of the Institution, and read at her funeral, are appended to this report.

The course of study in the institution continues the same as in former years, embracing reading, orthography, writing, geography, English grammar and analysis, Latin, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, history, astronomy, physiology, vocal and instrumental music, and other branches of learning usually taught in the best academies and high schools of the State.

Mr. Otis Patten, who was connected with this institution as a teacher during the first eleven years of its existence, has, after an absence of ten years, returned and resumed the duties of the office which he resigned in the year 1853. He has, for the last four years, had charge of the Arkansas Institution for the Blind, which was suspended in September last on account of the financial difficulties in that State, resulting from the civil war which is so fatal to all the institutions in most of the States of the South.

Miss Georgia M. Harlow, one of the teachers of whom favorable mention was made in the last report of the institution, continues to discharge the important duties of her office with the greatest ability and fidelity, and merits the unqualified approval of all the friends of the institution.

Miss Marie Woodman, at the end of the annual session in 1862, with health somewhat impaired, felt it to be her duty to resign the office of teacher which she had filled with the greatest honor to herself and with perfect satisfaction to all. The finest natural endowments, the highest mental culture, and an unusual aptness to teach, rendered this young lady one of the most acceptable and successful teachers ever connected with the school, and we greatly regreted the loss of her valuable services.

The place vacated by the resignation of Miss Woodman, was filled by the appointment of Miss Emma I. Day, a young lady of fine genius, of extensive literary attainments, of great ability as a teacher, and of earnest devotion to the pupils and the interests of the institution.

The institution is under the deepest obligations to Miss Day and Miss Harlow, not only for the faithful performance of all their duties as teachers, but for important extraordinary services in the severe trials through which the institution passed in the latter part of the year 1862. In all the difficulties and dangers of that memorable year, these teachers ever manifested vigilance, fearlessness, energy, fidelity, and forgetfulness of self, that are above all praise, and that rendered their services truly invaluable.

The number of pupils in the school in the year 1862, was 35 ; 10 males and 25 females. The number in the year 1863 has been 42 ; 13 males and 29 females.

The average number of pupils in the five years immediately preceding the commencement of the rebellion in the South, was 56. The average number during the last three years has been 40—a decrease

of more than twenty-eight per cent. since the commencement of the rebellion.

This decrease was to be anticipated as the direct and necessary consequence of the rebellion. Situated in the very centre of a distracted country, and in a State which has been the theatre of war, it was not to be expected that the institution would wholly avoid loss, if it escaped annihilation. Beyond the decrease in the number of pupils the institution suffered no very serious injury during the first eighteen months of the war. But at the end of that period, and for months following, the school was subjected to many severe trials. When Louisville was threatened by the rebel forces under General Bragg, the grounds and building of the institution were occupied by Federal soldiers, and we were compelled to abandon them. And scarcely had they been restored, and the exercises of the school commenced, when Dr. J. F. Head, the Medical Director at Louisville, at the instance, we believe, of his assistant, Dr. M. Goldsmith, formed the cruel design of driving the blind children from their home, and converting it into a military hospital. To effect this object they endeavored to procure military orders, but failed. The lamented General Nelson, who was then in command of the Federal forces in Kentucky, not only refused to sanction such use of the building, but positively forbade it. Scarcely, however, had General Nelson fallen, when these heartless doctors again set about their work; and they then accomplished, by an artful stratagem, what they had before and would then have failed to accomplish by direct appeal. They had more than once applied to General Boyle, the immediate commander of this department, for authority to convert the buildings of the institution into a hospital; but their application was at all times denied. Finally, the battle of Perryville created a necessity for large hospital accommodations; and they applied for and obtained from General Wright, authority to use any building suitable for hospital purposes in Louisville or its vicinity. Under this general authority, which was never intended to authorize the occupation of the buildings of the blind school, and authority for the occupation of which, we believe, never would have been obtained under a direct and open application, the medical director, without any previous notice to the Trustees or Superintendent, took immediate possession of the buildings; and it was with difficulty we could obtain from him permission for the blind children to remain in the house twenty-four hours, until another house could be found to accommodate them, or any time whatever to remove the furniture and costly apparatus of the institution. Fortunately, we soon found a house, which we leased, sufficient to accommodate, in tolerable comfort, about twenty of the pupils; and to it we removed such of the furniture as the medical director or his assistant was pleased to allow, and such of the pupils as could not be sent to their homes.

The Trustees, personally and in writing, remonstrated with Dr. Head against this use of the buildings of the institution. They pointed him to the United States Marine Hospital, which was almost entirely without patients, and was likely to remain so. They exhibited to him other large buildings, which they believed could be fitted up for hospitals at less expense than the buildings of the institution. They

pleaded with him that the unfortunate blind were objects of charity and homeless as well as the wounded soldiers, and that while he was clothed with authority to procure other accommodations for the soldiers, they had no means of providing for the blind children if they were driven from the house provided for them by the State. But he was as deaf to their remonstrances as he was heartless. They then appealed to General Wright to restore the house to the school; but the medical director and his assistant had anticipated them, and had made to him such representations of the absolute necessity for a continued occupation of the building as a military hospital, that he was unwilling to interfere without a personal investigation of the matter, which, on account of his other pressing duties, he was unable to make.

The trustees therefore appealed to the War Department at Washington, and then promptly came an order that the buildings be vacated and restored to them immediately. But the medical director, instigated by his assistant, under one pretence or another, evaded an execution of this order for months, and, indeed, endeavored to create an apparent necessity for a continued occupation of the building, by sending to it other patients after he was notified of the order of the War Department. To the trustees he represented that some of the patients could not be removed without great danger to life; and the trustees, under the circumstances, forbore to insist on an immediate execution of the order, being assured that the building would be vacated as soon as the sick could be removed from it. But they found the medical director and his assistant not more disposed to observe his promises to them than to obey the orders of the Secretary of War; and it was not until his assistants and nurses, without a patient, were expelled from the building on the 5th day of January, 1863, by the trustees, under an order authorizing them to use a file of soldiers for that purpose, that the trustees discovered that the heartlessness of these officers was only equalled by their duplicity.

The school returned to the building on the 17th day of March, 1863; but as most of the hospital furniture and stores remained in it until the 5th day of June, we did not obtain full possession of the house until that time—more than seven months from the day on which the school was driven from it.

We have never received, nor have we formally demanded, compensation for the use of the building while occupied as a hospital, nor for the injury done to the buildings and grounds. Although the house was first occupied under an order which, we believe, was not intended to apply to it, and although the U. S. Government, through the Secretary of War, promptly did all that could be done to restore it, we believe the State of Kentucky has a just claim upon the U. S. Government for compensation, and we respectfully submit the whole matter to the consideration and direction of the General Assembly.

After the return of the pupils and officers of the institution, under the protection of the U. S. Government, to the house from which they had been for nearly five months excluded, no one ventured again to molest them.

The presence of military encampments, at various times during the last two years, on the lands immediately surrounding the institution,

the occupation of the buildings and grounds of the school by armed soldiers and by hospital patients, the destruction of the lumber and every kind of movable property on the grounds, and in the outbuildings of the institution, have greatly interfered with the progress of the work on the buildings, and with the operations of the mechanical department of the pupils, and rendered it advisable to postpone to the next year a part of the work necessary to the completion of the main building, the erection of a workshop for the male pupils, the purchase of an organ for the concert hall or chapel, and the erection of a permanent fence on the lot of the institution.

The joiners' work on all the rooms, unfinished at the date of our last report, has been completed; and the painting has been finished in all parts of the building except the rooms in the second story.

The pupils have manufactured and renovated a large number of mattresses for the use of the institution, and arrangements have recently been made to enable them to manufacture mattresses quite extensively, in a rented building, during the ensuing year.

The balance on hand at the date of last report, for building and other improvements, was		\$8,429 95
Paid for lumber	\$585 14	
Paid carpenters	1,436 58	
Paid for painting	524 84	
Paid for plumbing, castings, locks, lightning-rods, &c.	441 94	
Insurance in 1862	300 00	
		<u>3,288 50</u>

Leaving a balance.		<u>\$5,141 45</u>
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The means of the Institution to meet the ordinary expenses in the years 1862 and 1863 have been as follows:

Allowance for State pupils, 4th quarter, 1861	\$1,225 00	
Allowance for State pupils in 1862	4,245 00	
Allowance for State pupils in 1863	3,626 32	
State appropriation in 1862	3,000 00	
State appropriation in 1863	3,000 00	
Board and tuition of pupil from Tennessee	100 00	
		<u>\$15,196 32</u>
Balance against the institution at date of last report	1,275 65	
		<u>\$13,920 67</u>

The ordinary expenses of the institution, for the years 1862 and 1863, have been as follows:

Provisions, groceries, cows and provender, 1862	\$1,674 55	
Provisions, groceries, cows and provender, 1863	2,233 80	
Board of pupils when removed by order of Federal officers	95 00	
Wages of servants, seamstress, &c., in December, 1861	62 00	
Wages of servants, seamstress, gardener, &c., in 1862	777 25	
Wages of servants, seamstress, gardener, &c., in 1863	851 95	
Salaries of officers, 4th quarter, 1861	725 00	
Salaries of officers in 1862	2,330 00	
Salaries of officers in 1863	2,131 75	
Salary of treasurer, 1862 and 1863	70 00	
Medical attendance in 1862 and 1863	55 50	
Medicines, &c.	60 85	
Fuel	311 60	
Dry goods, &c.	128 34	
Shoes in 1862 and 1863	30 35	
Books, musical tablets, and writing cards	66 75	
Sheet music, musical instruments, and tuning	79 07	
Lamps, oil, &c.	91 73	
		<u>\$11,775 49</u>
Amounts carried forward		<u>\$13,920 67</u>

Amounts brought forward.....	\$11,775 49	\$13,920 67
Hardware and queensware	35 70	
Furniture .	227 80	
Insurance, 1863.....	300 00	
Carriage of pupils to church, 1862 and 1863	129 00	
Rent of land, 1862 and 1863.....	400 00	
Rent of house	187 50	
Horses, shoeing of horses, saddle, repairs of harness and carriage.	241 05	
Cedar posts.....	52 45	
Funeral expenses of Ellen Emmons.	44 00	
Filling entrenchment and repairing fence.....	44 10	
Removal of furniture, pupils, &c.....	160 20	
Hire of watchmen	168 00	
Cleaning house after removal of soldiers.....	68 37	
		<hr/>
		\$13,833 66
Balance in hands of the treasurer.....		<hr/>
		\$87 01

The prices of labor, provisions, and all articles consumed in the institution, have very greatly advanced during the last two years, and the institution has, moreover, been subjected to many extraordinary expenses on account of the occupation of the building by soldiers and hospital patients; and yet, under the judicious management of the Superintendent, the expenditures have not exceeded the income of the institution.

Since the return of the school to the building of the institution in March last, the number of pupils has more than doubled. As soon as the completion of the building shall render the constant presence of the Superintendent for the supervision of the workmen no longer absolutely necessary, he proposes, in case the present degree of quiet shall continue in Kentucky, to visit those sections of the State not yet visited, to awaken an interest in the education of the blind; and we may, therefore, anticipate a considerable addition to the number of pupils during the coming year.

In closing this report, we respectfully commend the institution to the fostering care of the General Assembly, which called it into existence, and which has kindly sustained it from its origin to the present time.

W. F. BULLOCK,
T. S. BELL,
BLAND BALLARD,
W. S. BODLEY,
Trustees.

KENTUCKY INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, *Louisville*, December 31, 1863.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

BRYCE M. PATTEN, A. M.,

DIRECTOR AND PRINCIPAL TEACHER.

MISS GEORGIA M. HARLOW,

TEACHER.

MISS EMMA I. DAY,

TEACHER,

OTIS PATTEN,

TEACHER.

JOHN HORN,

TEACHER.

MARY CLINE,

ELIZA DAVIS,

MARY COSTELLO,

ELIZA L. ALLEN,

ASSISTANT PUPILS.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS

FOR THE YEAR 1862.

NAMES.	RESIDENCE.
Elizabeth J. Clay.....	Johnson county.
Martha Clay.....	Johnson county.
William H. Clay.....	Johnson county.
Mary Cline.....	Louisville.
Martha A. Coker.....	Calloway county.
Mary Costello.....	Louisville.
Elizabeth Dale.....	Russellville.
Eliza Davis.....	Daviess county.
Michael Dorr.....	Covington.
Elizabeth Harry.....	Hickman county.
Timothy Hartill.....	Louisville.
Thomas Hazlep.....	Breckinridge county.
Elizabeth Henning.....	Louisville.
William W. Holtzelaw.....	Louisville.
Naney Hoskins.....	Estill county.
Edward E. Martin.....	Boone county.
Clara Mattingly.....	Louisville.
Reuben McClanahan.....	Logan county.
Florence Miller.....	Louisville.
Mary Miller.....	Louisville.
Joseph P. Mitchell.....	Owensboro.
Louisa Monohan.....	Louisville.
Fanny C. Moorman.....	Owensboro.
Celoza d'Ouville.....	Louisville.
Georgiana Porter.....	Louisville.
John Porter.....	Louisville.
Virginia Porter.....	Louisville.
Nancy Prewitt.....	Russell county.
Julia Purnell.....	Maysville.
Rebecca Rogers.....	Fayette county.
John Summers.....	Elizabethtown.
Martha Swope.....	Lagrange.
Minnie Trocndle.....	Louisville.
Naomi Wills.....	Harrodsburg.
Adeline Wildes.....	Louisville.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS

FOR THE YEAR 1863.

Names.	Residence.
Eliza L. Allen.....	Larue county.
Lawson W. Adams.....	Paducah.
Fannie Bickers.....	Perryville.
Charles Barbee.....	Louisville.
Alice Bradley.....	Nashville, Tenn.
May I. Campbell.....	Louisville.
Angeline Clark.....	Butler county.
Mary Cline.....	Louisville.
Nannie Cooper.....	Boone county.
Mary Costello.....	Louisville.
Eliza Davis.....	Daviess county.
James G. Green.....	Louisville.
Kate Hardin.....	Daviess county.
Elizabeth Harry.....	Hickman county.
Timothy Hartell.....	Louisville.
Thomas Hazlep.....	Breckinridge county.
Rhoda J. Hill.....	Campbell county.
William W. Holtzelaw.....	Louisville.
Henry L. Kidd.....	Lexington.
Edward E. Martin.....	Boone county.
Clara Mattingly.....	Louisville.
Reuben McClanahan.....	Logan county.
Mary Miller.....	Louisville.
Joseph P. Mitchell.....	Owensboro.
Louisa Monohan.....	Louisville.
Fannie C. Moorman.....	Owensboro.
Joseph M. Morrison.....	Harrison county.
Lucinda Peggins.....	Owensboro.
Georgiana Porter.....	Louisville.
John Porter.....	Louisville.
Virginia Porter.....	Louisville.
Nancy Prewitt.....	Russell county.
Julia Purnell.....	Maysville.
Rebecca Rogers.....	Fayette county.
Sarah C. Roberts.....	Harrison county.
John Summers.....	Elizabethtown.
Martha Swope.....	Lagrange.
Zenobia Toms.....	Washington county.
Minnie Troendle.....	Louisville.
Mary A. Walker.....	Louisville.
Susan A. Ward.....	Nelson county.
Naomi Wells.....	Harrodsburg.

ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

TO THE FRIENDS OF THE BLIND IN KENTUCKY :

The Kentucky Institution for the Blind has been in successful operation, under the superintendence of the undersigned, for nearly twenty-two years. It was established by the Legislature of Kentucky for the instruction of those children of this State who are blind, and for those whose sight is so imperfect that they cannot see to read. All such children, of suitable age, of good mental capacity, and of unexceptionable moral character, are received and educated at the expense of the institution, which is a State school, equally free to the rich and the poor.

The pupils are instructed in vocal and instrumental music, and in the branches usually taught in public schools and academies for seeing pupils. The boys are also taught mechanical trades, to enable them to support themselves independently after leaving the institution.

The pupils, generally, are very happy and industrious, and many of them make wonderful advancement in their studies, and qualify themselves to be teachers of music, mathematics, and other branches of learning.

The Legislature provides for the board and tuition of the children of Kentucky. Pupils from other States pay one hundred and forty dollars a year.

The annual school session commences on the 20th day of September, and terminates on the 15th day of July. It is very desirable that pupils should enter at the commencement of the session, but *new* pupils will be received at any time during the session.

Pupils must come provided with a full supply of comfortable clothing, which must be marked with the name of the owner, and be renewed, from time to time, as may be necessary. Traveling expenses to and from the institution must be paid by the pupils or their friends.

Persons desiring to send children to this school will please to send the name, age, and post-office address of the applicant to the undersigned, who will, at all times, cheerfully communicate any necessary information pertaining to the institution.

B. M. PATTEN,
Institution for the Blind, Louisville, Ky.

[From the Louisville Journal.]

DEATH OF MISS ELLEN EMMONS.

The trustees, teachers, pupils, and friends of the Kentucky Institution for the Blind were called upon last Saturday night to meet one of the severest afflictions that have visited that noble institution. We allude to the death of Miss Ellen Emmons, who had been an inmate of the school between fifteen and sixteen years, a small portion of the time simply as a pupil, and much the largest portion of it as a teacher. Such were the excellence of her disposition and her remarkable gifts of mind, that she acquired knowledge more as a pastime than as a labor. Nature had endowed her with graces of remarkable excellence. She was a poet in the best sense of that term, and she has rarely been surpassed in her sphere of music as a composer. She entered the school as a little child, destitute of any instruction, but she speedily developed gifts of such rare excellency that, at the age of eleven years, she was an acceptable teacher. She was but a child when the institute building was burned on Broadway; but the next morning after the disaster she composed a dirge upon the calamity, which has been justly admired for years. At the meeting of the Legislature, she sang this beautiful production with such pathos and power that members of the Legislature thanked some of the trustees for not asking for all the money in the treasury as an appropriation for rebuilding, for they said that child could have drawn it all. A great number of gifts were bestowed upon her as tokens of affection, and she cherished them with devotion. Year by year this lovely being expanded her intellect, and charmed all who knew her, not more by the powers of her mind than the loveliness of her disposition. We have seen Catharine Hays stand over this child while at the piano, and weep in thinking that such rare gifts should be deprived of sight. Thalberg and Strakosch have repeatedly declared that they had rarely heard her equal in music. When Thalberg visited the school, Ellen Emmons composed in a few hours a welcome to Thalberg, which was performed upon his entrance into the school room. It drew tears from the heart of that great artist, and he found it difficult to tear himself away from the institution which held such a gem of musical knowledge, and of the most exquisite taste. Among the last of her performances in instrumental music, was on the occasion of General Anderson's visit to the institution. His noble virtues as a man, apart from all military fame, had made a deep impression upon Miss Emmons, and she could not forego the pleasure of doing honor to him. When she, through weakness, staggered in her walk to the piano, the hero of Sumpter sprang from his chair and hurried to her assistance. He was moved to tears in witnessing the results of his native State in the education of her blind. He seemed as if he could not tire in talking of Miss Emmons.

But this was common to all who enjoyed the pleasure of knowing her. We have known her intimately from the day of her admission into the school, and that knowledge has been a perpetual joy. Her rare intelligence, her remarkable musical gifts, and the rare loveliness of her character, make a knowledge of her one of the inestimable treasures of memory. One of the rarest, richest, and purest of the bright gems in the Kentucky Institution for the Blind has left its earthly cabinet for its place in Heaven, but even its place in its earthly cabinet is not all dark. A sweet halo of light lives in all memories of her.

On Monday last the trustees, officers, and pupils of the blind school joined the members of the Christian Church in paying their sad tribute to the memory of Ellen Emmons. She had been an ardent and worthy member of the Christian Church for years, and during her long illness various members of that congregation did all in their power to soothe the sufferings of this cherished sister. She was patient and uncomplaining throughout all her sufferings; but she feared that she was not patient enough. She said to the writer that her great sorrow was that she could no longer use her instrument nor dictate her compositions. Alas! that such gems should have been lost. We can make some estimate of their value from our knowledge of the richness of those she was able to write before her debility overpowered almost every other faculty but her unconquerable love of music.

B. M. Patten, Esq., the superintendent of the blind school, is preparing a biographical sketch of Miss Emmons, which the Rev. D. P. Henderson has announced he will read to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock, at the Christian Church. For this reason we close these remarks.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, in his new work, "Songs in Many Keys," seems to have had one like Ellen Emmons before his poetic eye. He sings:

Her hands are cold; her face is white;
No more her pulses come and go;
Her eyes are shut to life and light;
Fold the white vesture, snow on snow,
And lay her where the violets blow.

If any, born of kindlier blood,
Should ask, What maiden lies below?
Say only this: A tender bud,
That tried to blossom in the snow,
Lies withered where the violets blow.

All that was mortal of Ellen Emmons now reposes in the beautiful lot belonging to the Institution for the Blind, in Cave Hill Cemetery. Those who knew her will scarcely pass that endeared spot without pausing to catch inspiration towards a pure life of holiness, from meditations upon her bright example.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MISS ELLEN EMMONS.

Miss Ellen Emmons was born in Clarke county, Ind., on the 24th day of May, 1840, of very lowly parentage, and in early childhood was left a penniless, friendless, sightless orphan.

At the age of six years she was found, in a state of great destitution, by the Director of the Kentucky Institution for the Education of the Blind, and was admitted into that institution as a beneficiary of her native State. A few months later, her only living relative having removed to Louisville, Ellen became a beneficiary of the State of Kentucky. Her connection with the institution continued, as pupil or as teacher, until the day of her death, Saturday, February 15, 1862, embracing a period of more than fifteen years.

The appearance of the poor, neglected, blind child at the time of her transition from the county almshouse to the benevolent State institution which was ever after to be her happy home, gave little indication of the mental wealth with which she was endowed, little promise of the brilliant future that awaited her. She had received no moral or intellectual culture; she had enjoyed none of those happy home influences with which most of the children of our favored land are blessed, but she was not slow to appreciate and improve the advantages of her new position. Hardly a year had passed away before those remarkable qualities of mind and heart, which so highly distinguished her in later years, began, one by one, to reveal themselves in her daily life. She greatly endeared herself to the officers and teachers of the institution by her gentleness, cheerfulness, docility, patience, gratitude, and by her love of knowledge, which increased with her years, and gave her eminent success in every branch of learning. In mathematics, languages, belles-lettres, and all the studies of the course, her mental power and love of learning were equally manifest.

Her remarkable conscientiousness prevented her from giving undue attention to any favorite study, and from neglecting any unattractive lesson or duty. With her the authority of conscience was ever supreme; and thus she was enabled, day by day, year after year, to build up that symmetrical, lovely, and exalted character which won the admiration and love of all with whom she was acquainted.

During the years of her childhood and youth the Director of the institution was accustomed to take her with him to distant parts of Kentucky, for the purpose of awakening an interest in the education of the blind, and she thus visited, at different times, nearly all sections of the State, from the line of Virginia on the east, to the banks of the Mississippi on the west; and in protracted and critical public examinations, she gave the clearest proof of the great mental capabilities of the blind under appropriate means of instruction, and made evident to

all the duty of the State to offer to these her unfortunate children, whose life is veiled in perpetual darkness, moral, intellectual, and physical cultivation equal to that enjoyed by those who are blessed with all the senses.

In these pleasant journeys which usually continued for several weeks, she never relaxed her efforts for mental improvement, but, under the tuition of her teacher and friend, as they rode over the hills and plains of Kentucky, she pursued her studies with the same cheerfulness and ardor that she ever manifested when surrounded by her classmates in the institution.

In her literary and musical exercises before the citizens of Kentucky, and in the annual examinations of the school in the presence of the State Legislature, she astonished and delighted all by the extent and variety of her attainments; and, at the close of these exercises, intelligent gentlemen frequently expressed the conviction that she was the most highly educated young lady of her age that they had ever seen.

While she cheerfully gave to every study its due share of attention, and secured an elevated position in every class, there was one study in which she pre-eminently excelled, and from which she derived the most intense delight. Endowed with very extraordinary musical gifts, and favored with superior opportunities for their cultivation, she attained to very rare excellence in the intricate science and beautiful art of music. She excelled both in vocal and instrumental music. Her voice was weak, but exceedingly sweet and expressive, and never failed to touch the heart of the listener, and often drew tears from eyes unused to weeping. She was a poetess, and many of her songs are remarkable for pathos and beauty. When Catharine Hays visited Louisville several years since, Miss Emmons welcomed her to the Institution for the Blind in a beautiful poetical address, which Miss H. ever cherished as the most precious of all the gifts she had ever received. She was perfectly acquainted with many musical instruments, and loved them all; but the piano was her favorite instrument. Thalberg, Strakosch, and other great artists, who listened to her performances years ago, declared that they had rarely heard her equal in music. From the day of her admission into the institution to the hour when her pure spirit passed into the invisible world, music continually ministered to her happiness. It gladdened her childhood, it inspired her youth, and it sustained her faith and hope in the last trying hours of her temporal life.

Under the musical guidance of that eminent musician and faithful teacher, Professor Joseph B. Smith, whose instruction she enjoyed for several years, she became thoroughly acquainted with the theory of music, and fully qualified to enjoy music of the highest order. Between the gifted teacher and the equally gifted pupil there ever existed the most beautiful sympathy. Wherever the teacher led the way, the earnest pupil was ever ready and able to follow. In all the intricacies of the most difficult compositions, the hope of the former was never disappointed by faltering or failure on the part of the latter. From teacher and pupil alike all the visible beauties of creation were concealed, during their entire lives, by a dark and impenetrable veil,

but both were eminently fitted to perceive and enjoy all that is beautiful and sublime in the mysterious realm of music.

The musical productions of Miss Emmons furnish abundant evidence of genius of a very high order. She commenced the work of musical composition at the age of ten years, and continued it, as her various duties permitted, to the close of her life. Her compositions are remarkable for their purity, beauty, and power; they are replete with the deepest thought, the tenderest feeling, and the loftiest aspiration, and many of them are worthy of the best masters. Had her life been spared, she must soon have been recognized as one of the brightest lights in the musical world.

Music was to her not merely a source of the highest and purest happiness—she regarded it as an exalted religious duty, obligatory upon all who are endowed with musical gifts. She believed that the great design of the Creator, in the bestowment of musical powers, is to purify and elevate the mind, and that the recipient of these favors should, in the cultivation and exercise of his musical faculties, ever bear in mind this benevolent design. While engaged in one of her greatest compositions she said to a friend, “It is my fervent wish that every one who listens to this, may be ready to exclaim

“Rise, my soul, and stretch thy wings,
Thy better portion trace;
Rise from transitory things,
Towards heaven, thy resting place.”

Her richest compositions were produced during her last illness, when she was so enfeebled by disease that she was unable to dictate and preserve them. The thought was inexpressibly painful to her and to all her friends that these beautiful gems, which would be of such priceless value to those who loved her, and, to all true lovers of music, must pass away with her breath.

As this world receded from her view, she drew new inspiration from that glorious world clearly opening before her mental vision, into which she felt an unwavering assurance that she was soon to be permitted to enter. Her last musical composition is considered by the musical friends who listened to it, as with strength that seemed almost supernatural, she performed it in her sick room, the most beautiful, the most spiritual, the most perfect of all her productions. As she entered upon the composition of this splendid piece, she felt that the end was near—that her earthly work was almost completed; and she determined, as a manifestation of her unspeakable gratitude to her earthly benefactors and to the great Author of all her powers, to crown the labors of her life with one, the most perfect, the most grateful of all. To a friend who was near she said: “*This will be my last effort—I shall throw my whole soul into it—I think it will be my best.*” Her entire success in it can be fully appreciated by none but the favored few who heard her perform it. They pronounce it a composition of the highest order, of unsurpassed beauty and power, and fully worthy of the greatest masters.

Language can hardly do full justice to the merits of Miss Emmons as a teacher in her favorite department of vocal and instrumental music.

At the tender age of ten years, influenced by an ardent desire to render herself useful, and to make some grateful return to the institution and the State which she felt had conferred so many inestimable favors upon her, she earnestly solicited the privilege of instructing some of her schoolmates; and at the age of eleven years she attained to such distinction as a scholar, and, especially, as a musician, that she was appointed assistant teacher of music in the institution; and from that time she devoted a part of each day to her own studies, and a part to the instruction of her pupils. How earnestly, patiently, faithfully, and successfully she devoted herself to this labor of love for ten years, can be fully appreciated by those only who were her pupils, or who were associated with her in the instruction of the school. In all the lofty moral qualities essential to form the character of the perfect teacher, she was equalled by few and surpassed by none. So eminent were her abilities, and so perfect her fidelity, that it is no disparagement to any of the able and faithful teachers, who, for longer or shorter periods, have been connected with the Kentucky Institution for the Blind during the twenty years of its existence, to say that no one of them was ever more highly esteemed or more successful as a teacher. No teacher could be more beloved by her pupils. During her long connection with the institution she never failed, in a single instance, to win the affection and admiration of her pupils and of all with whom she was intimately acquainted. She was qualified to teach the most advanced pupils in the school; yet, with the humility and hopefulness that ever characterized her, she was willing to take charge of any pupil in regard to whom other teachers despaired of success. Her wonderful success with some of her most unpromising pupils seemed almost miraculous to the pupils and teachers of the institution.

Her grateful devotion to the institution was manifested in the most touching manner during the last year, when the failure of her voice, which was hushed by disease to a whisper, compelled her to relinquish the charge of her pupils. Her interest in her work was so great, that, although every effort was accompanied by pain, she earnestly pleaded for permission to devote a small part of each day to the instruction of her pupils, and proposed to refrain from all use of her voice, during the remainder of the day, and converse with her friends by means of the manual alphabet only, which, notwithstanding her entire blindness, she used with the greatest rapidity. When convinced that the want of strength and voice rendered it impossible for her to continue to instruct her pupils in her accustomed manner, she devised a plan to enable her to teach without the aid of her voice; but her rapidly failing strength prevented her from carrying this plan into execution. Her active labors for the good of her pupils terminated, but her interest in their mental and spiritual improvement knew no abatement even to the last hour of her life.

The trustees and director of the institution fully appreciated the many rare excellencies of Miss Emmons' character, and her extraordinary qualifications as a teacher; and they fondly cherished the hope of offering to her, on the day of her graduation, the honorable office of principal teacher of music in the institution—a design which well accorded with her own grateful and long cherished wish to devote her

life to the institution in which she had received her education and passed her brightest years, and which she loved as her happy home. But her pure and faithful life had won for her a far more exalted position than earth could offer. Before the day of her graduation she was attacked by a fatal disease, and, after a long and painful illness, was removed from her earthly labors to that higher state of existence for which she was so fully prepared. Throughout her illness she derived great consolation from the assurance that, though her earthly work was finished, she had, by her fidelity as a pupil and as a teacher, contributed in a high degree to the prosperity of the institution which had been to her an Alma Mater indeed; and that, through her instrumentality, many a poor blind child had been led from the darkness of ignorance into the intellectual and moral light that had made her own life so happy; for, notwithstanding the terrible cloud that darkened her pathway from the cradle to the grave, life was to her very bright and beautiful. For the blessings that made her life so happy she was profoundly grateful to her Heavenly Father and her earthly benefactors and her life, spent in doing good, was a beautiful illustration of her gratitude. When prevented by disease from continuing her active labors for the good of others, she devised new plans of usefulness, freely devoting to benevolent objects the pecuniary means which she had accumulated by the industry and economy of years. She had freely received, and she freely gave; and she experienced the truth of the declaration of the Great Teacher, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Passing by many of the rare excellencies that adorned the character of this gifted and lovely young lady, we dwell for a moment upon the crowning excellence, the union and perfection of all, without which all other excellencies were vain, and life a failure.

She was a Christian. She remembered her Creator in the days of her childhood, and on the elevated pages of His Word she faithfully endeavored to feel her way through this dark world to Him and to Heaven. Her entire life seemed one act of religious worship. At the age of sixteen years she made a public consecration of herself to God, and entered with new zeal upon life's great work. She honored her holy profession, and became a bright ornament to the Christian Church. Faith, hope, love, and all the Christian graces were beautifully illustrated in her pure and holy life. But she attained not to the rare excellence of character, of which this brief sketch conveys but an imperfect idea, without great, and earnest, and life-long effort. In the estimation of all who were intimately acquainted with her,

"Her faults were slight and few
As human faults could be;"

and her character seemed almost perfect; yet she saw in herself much to condemn, and of her own feelings she was a most severe judge. Life was to her a continual conflict and a continual victory.

During her illness she was constantly sustained by the consolation of that religion to which she had given her young heart. All the graces that she had so long and so carefully cultivated shone out with unusual brightness. In the years of health she had treasured up in memory the promises of God, and she was cheered and sustained by those promises when so enfeebled by disease that she could neither

read nor listen to the reading of others. None who visited her sick room can ever forget the peace, the joy, the faith, the hope, that made that room of suffering bright and glorious—the very gate of Heaven. Her resignation to the Divine will was perfect. On the confines of the invisible world, joyfully anticipating the glories beyond, and yet loving with an undying love all that is beautiful, and true, and good in the present state, she was ready to accept with equal gratitude the prolongation of her life on earth, or the renewal of it in Heaven.

Her last hours were a beautiful termination of her beautiful life. The peace that passeth all understanding, the triumph that only the dying Christian knows, were hers. A few hours before her purified spirit took its flight to Him who gave it, she repeated, again and again, with great emotion; the lines of Pope, addressed to the soul of the dying Christian, dwelling with special interest on the last stanza:

“The world recedes; it disappears;
Heaven opens on my eyes; my ears
With sounds seraphic ring:
Lend, lend your wings! I mount! I fly!
O Grave, where is thy victory?
O Death, where is thy sting?”

Soon after, she repeated the lines,

“Jesus can make a dying bed
Feel soft as downy pillows are,
While on his breast I lean my head,
And breathe my life out sweetly there;”

and, with a heavenly smile, added, “*Breathe my life out sweetly there! O, how beautiful! Breathe my life out there! Beautiful! Beautiful!*” In a little while she breathed her life out there as sweetly and peacefully as ever a child fell asleep in the arms of its mother.

